

MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Montana Historical Society Auditorium
Friday, April 20, 2007

In attendance were Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members Jim Court, Tom Foor, Shirley Groff, Bill Holt, George Horse Capture, Kent Kleinkopf, Katherine Lee, Jack Lepley, Sharon Lincoln, Steve Lozar, Jim Murry, Lee Rostad and Crystal Shors. Also in attendance were MHS Director Richard Sims, MHS National Register Coordinator Kate Hampton, MHS Centralized Services Manager Denise King, MHS Publications Program Manager Molly Holz, MHS Research Center Program Manager Molly Kruckenberg, MHS Director of Museum Services Susan Near, MHS Public Information Officer Tom Cook, MHS Accountant/Fiscal Officer Betty Anne Bergstrom, MHS Administrative Officer Gena Ashmore, and Friends of the Society President Marge Jacobson. Also addressing the Board was Montana History Foundation Executive Director Amy Sullivan, Montana Commission Interim Executive Director Paul Reichert, MHS Curator of Historical Collections George Oberst, MHS Education Officer Linda Wruck, Senator Dave Wanzon, Keith Rupert and Skip Stanaway with CTA Architects. Emeritus Board Member Bob Morgan and MHS staff attended the architect presentation at noon.

CALL TO ORDER

President Sharon Lincoln called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Guests introduced themselves to the Board.

Sharon announced that the Board sent a plant to Katherine Lee because of a death in her family. Sharon read the thank you card from Katherine to the Board.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Lee Rostad moved to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2007 meeting, Bill Holt seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Lee Rostad moved to approve the minutes from the February 23, 2007 meeting, Bill Holt seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Denise King introduced Betty Anne Bergstrom to the Board. Betty Anne replaced Beth Campbell, who left the Society for the Department of Transportation. Betty Anne has 30 years of governmental and private sector accounting experience. Denise worked with Betty Anne at the Department of Health for three years.

The legislative audit exceptions have now been closed, and the Society has complied with all of the recommendations. An administrative fee of 19.75% will be applied to all non-federal, non-state grants. A new indirect rate proposal of 19.37% instead of the 33.35% for fiscal year 08 has been submitted to the federal government.

Centralized Services Division has developed a budget projection forecast to get the Society through the end of the year. Each program now has a budget, and CSD visits with the program managers monthly to make sure they are monitoring their particular budget, where they are with their budget and what they need to do to get through the end of the year. The Society will be ending on a positive note. The Store, for the first time in a long time, is projected to end with money in the bank. Overall the Society is doing fine and will make it to the end of the year. Next year Denise and Betty Anne will be micromanaging the programs' budgets to learn how the programs work, how they have historically used their funds, to educate themselves, to have better control, and to assure the Society will be in a good position at the end of the year.

When staff applies for grants a proposal will have to be submitted to a grants committee. This will ensure that all programs in the Society are used in a more comprehensive way for the grants. This method has worked well with other positions Denise has held.

Betty Anne and Denise are looking at all of the Trust Funds to determine the original intent and how the funds are being used. An analysis of each Trust Fund will be prepared for the next Board meeting. We will look at how the Trust Funds can be used to better help the Society move forward.

MONTANA HISTORY FOUNDATION REPORT

Amy Sullivan reported that the Foundation manages several endowments for the Society. The Foundation supplies about \$36,000 at the end of every fiscal year that the Society uses for programs and staff, including staff development.

The funding for the history textbook has been completely raised. The Foundation raised \$158,500 -- \$20,000 of which is above and beyond the budget. That money will go into an account for future revisions. The Foundation received \$65,000 in two grants: one from PPL Montana for \$20,000 and one from the Washington Corporation Foundation for \$44,534 .

MONTANA HERITAGE COMMISSION REPORT

Richard Sims introduced Paul Reichert, Interim Executive Director of the Montana Heritage Commission. Richard was pleased that Paul was reporting to the MHS Board because it strengthens communication between the Society and the Commission.

Paul said he has been working as Interim Director of the Commission since October. He has been doing downtown redevelopment work for about ten years in Montana. He has a degree from MSU in geography. In taking this position, Paul will be interested to see how it applies in

historic communities. The issues the Commission faces are similar to any downtown that is struggling with how to develop in a way that fits the community. Paul's role as he sees it is driving the future of the Heritage Commission given the historic significance of Virginia City/Nevada City, and doing long-range planning.

One of the goals of the Heritage Commission strategic plan is to set up a deaccession policy for the collections and artifacts. The Heritage Commission has almost one million artifacts. There is no easy way to try to save everything. The Commission cannot manage the artifacts without a policy that lets it sell low priority items. Paul's goal for this year is to go through an administrative rule process through the Secretary of State to establish the legal steps. Paul asked that anyone on the Society Board who has a strong interest in the policy please contact him.

Jim Court asked what becomes of the money from the sale of artifacts. Paul explained that state law requires that the money be held for the care and preservation of the remaining collection. The money does not go to the general fund.

Another goal Paul has for this year is to conduct a Historic Site Development Plan. The Heritage Commission is in its tenth anniversary year being the caretakers of Virginia and Nevada Cities. While there has been a lot of plans, assessments and studies done, there has not been a community plan for the entire site. The nature of the MHC work is unusual because it functions as a living museum, it cares for buildings and artifacts, approximately 130 people live in Virginia City, it is the county seat, and it is a tourist destination. One of the challenges in that community is that the Heritage Commission is looked at as the problem solver for everything. This plan needs to be detailed and identify project level planning, which should identify specifically where certain things are to happen in that community, such as an education center, new housing, trails, better parking, better signage -- all the things a community struggles with. The hardest part of the work will be engaging people who live there and getting support of the local governments. It is important that the Heritage Commission play a leadership role in helping the county, the city, and the Commission, and really lay out the future for the community. The Society, whether Board level or staff level, should be involved in this in some way.

Shirley Groff asked if there are still plans to move the highway so that big trucks are not going right through the middle of town. Paul replied that he has not heard a lot of talk about that as a major goal. There are very few options for alternatives to move traffic through. Shirley asked about the law enforcement detention center. Paul answered there was a bond issue proposed that failed. Jim Court asked if the planning process is contingent on budget requests in the legislature. Paul answered that the planning process is funded with some cash reserves. There are two grant proposals pending -- one with the Department of Commerce and another with the Rural Development Office through USDA out of Bozeman. If those grants are awarded, there will be enough money to do the planning project.

The most significant legislative issue the Commission has right now is in long range building funds - a \$3 million request for building preservation. The current preservation crew is funded through federal funds for four full-time people. That money runs out in June. If the Commission

does not get state funds to make up for that, it may lose that entire crew. We will not know until the end of the session.

Sharon Lincoln asked if the Heritage Commission owned the historic buildings in Virginia City. Paul answered that the Commission owns about 25% of the town, and most of the historic buildings. Approximately 50% of the commercial space in the town is owned by the Commission. The MHC also owns a lot of vacant land. Kent Kleinkopf asked about requests for building sites. Paul answered that there were ten new housing starts in the last year. There were over \$6 million in property transactions in Virginia City in the last year and a half. After being in court for many years, the Bovey Family estate settled this year. The Bovey Family is selling off all of their assets in Madison County. Jack Lepley asked if there are zoning regulations for new buildings in Virginia City. Paul answered that Virginia City Proper does have some zoning. This is why planning is important. There are a lot of things happening outside of the city between Virginia City and Nevada City. The highway corridors are critical areas that we need to determine what is or is not going to happen there. There are proposals to do a lot of development outside of the city.

Richard Sims commended Paul for initiating a site development plan for Virginia City. It is a bold but necessary move. As the Society master plans for a new place, we intend to bring in more visitors. Paul is master planning a place that already has people living in it. We hope the Society can help the Commission in a positive way.

MUSEUM AND EDUCATION PROGRAM REPORT

Susan Near invited the Board to preview the McGee photographs in the Northeast Gallery. That exhibit will open on April 27.

Deaccession Request – Hay Wagon

George Oberst, Curator of Historical Collections, said the horse-drawn hay wagon came to the Society in very poor condition in 1982. Based on how poor the condition was and the lack of space, the hay wagon was stored outside. The wagon is well beyond anything other than reconstruction. It will never be able to be conserved or repaired. The only surviving elements are the metal parts. The proposed disposal is to give the wagon to the City/County Preservation Office to have it reconstructed by a fairly talented crew of carpenters. They do not meet what we would consider museum conservator standards, nor would the end product meet that as an artifact, but they want to restore it and use it as a historical prop. Another project they are taking on is to repair the downtown trolley. Not only does this beneficially use this otherwise unusable artifact, it solidifies and generates good will with the city and the county, which owns our highway storage facility. The wagon's age is 1900 or before. **Jim Murry moved to accept the recommendation of staff to deaccession the hay wagon, Jim Court seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

Update on Montana Mosaic DVD Project

Linda Wruck informed the Board that an additional 2,000 DVDs have been ordered for distribution to schools, museums and historical societies in Montana. There are twelve chapters on the DVD, and Linda played one chapter of the Montana Mosaic DVD. The DVD is intended to be a springboard for teachers to begin classroom discussion. A companion website is being developed with twelve additional stories that augment the original twelve. All middle and high schools in Montana have received a copy of the DVD, and every county library as well. Over 1,000 copies have been sent out so far. Linda has been giving them out at teacher conferences and promoting the DVD. She will be doing evaluations with teachers who have been using the DVD, so we can assess how they are doing and what other materials we can provide them with to augment successful use of the DVD. Educators so far have been extremely enthusiastic. The DVD complements the history textbook. The Education Office has been working with Martha Kohl to create connections for the teachers. Any product we create will have those connections made for the educators.

Katherine Lee gave a DVD to the Wibaux Historical Society. Kent Kleinkopf suggested that senior citizen centers also be sent copies. Kent asked if the DVD had been provided to the legislature. Linda welcomed suggestions on other sources to send the DVD to.

Steve Lozar said the chapter that Linda played told the story of so many Indian families. Both of Steve's grandparents attended the Haskell School. His family was part of relocation and were sent to the Bay area, to Oakland, to Cleveland. The Indian schools Steve attended were essentially the same. In Indian country those experiences were not unique, and they touched almost all Indian families. The chapter was well done, and Steve was thankful it was being used as a stepping stone to more conversation. It helps us to reflect on who we are and opens up the Indian experience to be shared and better understood.

Museum Committee Report

Bill Holt reported that the Museum Committee spent time in the new exhibit. The Committee had a chance to talk about the exhibit development process and plans for upcoming exhibits. The Montana Mosaic DVD was a very lengthy project, but is a much-needed resource which is being well-received. The staff deserves a lot of credit.

RESEARCH CENTER PROGRAM REPORT

David Thompson Conference Update

Molly Kruckenberg informed the Board that the David Thompson Conference, "Beyond Borders and Boundaries," that will be held at the end of June is being advertised in our magazine. There are flyers with registration information, and there is also on-line registration available. Currently there are twenty-four people registered for the conference who are not presenters, which is good considering there is still two months until the conference. We received a small grant of \$2,500

from the Montana Committee for the Humanities to support the conference, which brings our total fundraising up to about \$11,000. We anticipate \$2,000 - \$3,000 more coming in for registration and additional donations to support this event. Molly asked the Board to pass on the information to people they know who might be interested in attending the conference.

Bradley Fellowship Award

Each year the Research Center uses the interest from the James H. Bradley Trust Fund to award one or two research fellowships in the amount of \$2,500 to support someone doing original, unique research on Montana history to come to the Historical Society and spend up to four weeks in residence doing their research. As part of that, the researcher will submit an article to Molly Holz to review for the magazine. This year we had 21 applicants, which is a record number. This fellowship has grown each year, and it is considered an honor for those who receive the fellowship. We were able to award two fellowships this year: Dr. Carol Williams with the University of Lethbridge is doing research on Native American women's work, and Dr. Jeffrey Johnson at Augustana College in South Dakota is researching William Scallon who was with the Anaconda Copper Company. About 75% of the articles submitted by Bradley Fellows get published in our magazine.

Research Center Committee Report

Shirley Groff reported that the Research Center has newspapers from the 1940s that have not yet been microfilmed. It will cost about \$16,000 to microfilm those newspapers. Shirley will go to Montana Resources and other organizations in Butte to see if she can help raise the money to microfilm the newspapers. The Research Center also needs a digital microfilm reader/scanner, which will cost another \$8,000 - \$10,000.

Some of the Research Center material is online through the Society's website, but it is a small amount of information. The Research Center staff continues to add material, but they do not have the resources they need to proceed at a large scale.

Crystal Shors added that the Montana Newspapers Association should have an interest in preserving newspapers on microfilm, as well as the big newspaper chains.

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM REPORT

Copper Chorus Spur Award

Molly Holz announced that Copper Chorus is the winner of the Western Writers of America Spur Award for contemporary non-fiction. There were 43 competitors for this award. Many people were involved in the making of this book. The best way to get the word out about publications is for people to talk about the books to their friends. One good way to do that is to read a chapter and then tell your friends about that chapter.

Winter/Spring Magazine

The Butte winter issue of the Magazine is sold out. We got many subscriptions and quite a lot of press out of the Butte issue. The spring issue was mailed out this week. Molly suggested that Board members choose an article out of the magazine, read it and talk about it.

WHA Magazine Support

Montana The Magazine of Western History is a membership benefit for the Western History Association, which is approximately 1,400 professional historians working in academic and public history positions around the United States. This relationship has been ongoing since 1983 when Bill Lang was the editor. WHA contributes \$24,000 each year to our budget, and there is a component of advertising as well. This relationship will be on WHA's agenda next fall in Oklahoma City. Molly Holz will talk about why the magazine is a benefit and why WHA should continue its relationship. The current contract continues until 2009. This is a complicated issue.

JSTOR Participation

Molly Holz announced that the Magazine has been accepted to JSTOR, which is an academic full-text database that research libraries subscribe to. There are 582 journals that participate in JSTOR worldwide. This will allow the full-text scanning of the magazine since its first issue in 1951 in the same format it was originally printed, including advertisements and the cover. It will be full-text searchable with the option to print two copies for personal use. We will receive royalties. JSTOR was a Gugenheim project in the mid 1990s, and it is the highest quality option for digitizing periodical content. Research libraries do not have shelf space anymore, and they want to replace their paper copies with digital copies. There is a possibility that maybe 30 organizations will no longer be carrying their paper copy, but we estimate that the royalty gained from this will be approximately \$2,500. Molly has attended seminars about digitizing the magazine, and the consensus is that there is increased interest in paper-based subscriptions due to the fact that it gets a wider audience than it had before. This is very important also because the younger generation of scholars do not go into library stacks. We will exist to a whole new generation of researchers. We are the first historical society journal to be included in the JSTOR community. We should be on the JSTOR database in January 2008.

Shirley Groff expressed concern over digitizing everything. She asked where would it all be in 500 years. Molly answered that this is a larger philosophical and practical question that large-scale digitization projects face. JSTOR is a well-established, well-funded, well-thought-out project. Molly Kruckenberg added that the digitization is just for access. The magazine will not go away in paper form. The paper will still be here 500 years from now.

Publications Committee Report

Lee Rostad said the biggest thing the Board can do is talk to people about our publications to get people to buy their own copy of books and subscribe to the magazine. Lee commended Molly Holz in that she not only puts out a good, readable magazine, but she keeps an eye on the bottom line. Molly responded that this is a team effort.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE PROGRAM REPORT

Identifying African American Heritage Resources Project

The Identifying African American Heritage Resources project has been ongoing at the Society for the last two years as a result of a Cultural and Aesthetics grant from the Cultural Trust. In the last legislative session we asked for \$28,000, and received a grant for \$14,100 to identify and document African American heritage resources across the state. We were able to hire historian Patty Dean and cultural anthropologist Alan Thompson to survey the collections at the Historical Society and create a database of those collection items and artifacts. We were also able to hire a Sobotka intern, Scott Meredith, to process the 1870 and 1910 census for all those people living in Montana of African American descent or a mix thereof. Scott wrote an article for the magazine on this topic. There is an outstanding amount of information with over 2,000 individuals, their occupations, their children's names, their ages, where they lived prior to coming to Montana, and other census information in addition to information from objects and documents in our collections. We are starting to identify those properties that are listed and that we know about in the state that have an African American connection. We realized the more we dug around that we just hit the tip of the iceberg on this information. We would like to use the database we have set up as a prototype for other communities across the state to use at their local historical societies to enter items into the database. The ultimate goal is to get the database online and accessible through our website. Molly Kruckenberg applied for a larger digitization grant for \$150,000 using the African American history project as a pilot to start digitizing these collections. Because of the success of this project, we decided to ask the Cultural Trust for another grant this year for \$28,000, hoping we will get another \$14,000. It now looks like we will get \$7,000, which means we will only be able to hire one person, and SHPO will be able to use the Sobotka intern again this summer. We will have a session at the history conference on this topic this year. We have generated a lot of press on this project. The Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. is establishing a Museum of African American History. This impetus will hopefully be at the national level so we can talk about the experience of black Americans in Montana and in the west as part of that larger national museum.

Other

Kate Hampton said the nine-member State Historic Preservation Review Board will hold its next meeting in Red Lodge and will be reviewing nine nominations. Kate described each of the properties that will be reviewed, and she invited interested Society Board members to attend.

Historic Preservation Committee Report

Tom Foor reported how important the State Preservation Office is to the overall mission of the Historical Society in terms of providing information, outreach, and tying into all of the other Society programs. It is very important that the Preservation Office be under the same roof as the Society when we have a new building. The Preservation Office has a lot of literature on the heritage that bridges the whole time span of human occupation in Montana. Montana is the first state in the country that has every site form for every known cultural site in the state digitized and online to those who have the clearance to access it. This is the first collection in the Society that is totally digitized and available. SHPO is working on a project to digitize 1,054 National Register sites in the state through a grant the state Information Technology Services Division (ITSD) received to facilitate online public information for economic development purposes. SHPO is also in the process of receiving funding from the Bureau of Land Management Department of the Interior for a digitization project involving 2,500 cultural sites in southeastern Montana. We see this as a pilot project, and ultimately the software developed to do this project can be applied to the rest of the state. Ninety percent of SHPO's budget comes from a federal grant. Montana ranks 49th in the country in terms of state contribution to SHPO's budget, and the 50th state gets a lot of money from private foundations, so they are actually doing better than we are. SHPO regrants to local communities for bricks and mortar projects, and they are deeply involved in the certified local government program, with 15 CLGs in the state. SHPO is involved in managing the information about 27,000 plus surveys that has gone on since the 1950s. Currently they abstract the information and put it in the computer. It would be nice to digitize those records too. Another function has to do with compliance with federal procedures and policy when it comes to the preservation of cultural sites. Three and a half people at SHPO review federal projects for a hundred federal agencies. Lastly, it is time for SHPO to do its five-year plan for the National Park Service. SHPO would like the Board to participate in this plan by filling out a questionnaire (also available online on the SHPO homepage) and sending it back to the Preservation Office.

Kate Hampton added that the Preservation Office usually creates two public awareness posters each year: the Montana Historic Preservation poster (which typically focuses on historical places) and the Montana Archaeology Week poster. Kate gave the Board members a copy of this year's Archaeology Week poster that features traditional cultural places.

DIRECTOR'S QUARTERLY REPORT & ACTION ITEMS

David Humphreys Miller Art

Richard Sims reported that the David Humphreys Miller art collection is very rare and unique, and it may be as valuable in its documentary content as its aesthetic content. David Humphreys Miller as a teenager traveled to Sioux country in the 1930s and interviewed and painted portraits of the living survivors of Little Bighorn and the Ghost Dance Massacre at Wounded Knee. At the Russell Auction in Great Falls a benefactor saw these paintings being displayed for sale, and decided he wanted to buy them for the Society. The dealer immediately took the paintings off

sale. The benefactor is Dr. Dean Modgley. He attended Carroll College in the 1940s and is a retired physician in the Bay area. He is hoping to pull together a consortium of his friends to buy the collection for us. We are awaiting the appraisal. This material has never been on the market, and the purchase is dependent on the appraisal.

Board Retreat

We have begun our master planning process. The architects will be giving their presentation at noon. At 1:15 Richard will take the architects to David Ewer's Office. We have had the staff retreat. We have had the Board retreat. We are starting to move towards the future. As we move into the intense work ahead, we have to keep in mind that if we are not buying it internally, we are not selling it on the street. We have to work closely with the architect and believe in the form and the content that we are shaping. We have got to agree on the location we finally settle on. Richard reminded everyone to be open minded and be good clients for the architects.

Indian Education For All Museum-School Project

The Office of Public Instruction approached us last month and asked us to imagine a grant program that would involve museums and schools that would focus on Native American materials, on Indian holdings in museums around the state. A grant process has been launched with ten museums around the state being awarded of about \$10,000 each. The museums had to partner with a school, and that co-education team of museum staff and school teachers will look at the Indian holdings in the museums and think of better ways to instruct children on Montana's Indian heritage collections.

Other

Richard is contemplating a trip to Washington, D.C. in the fall. We are about to be given the prestigious honor of becoming a Smithsonian Affiliate, which will boost our prestige and our membership program. We will be able to offer at a discount a Smithsonian membership as well as our Society membership. While there, Richard will call on Senators Baucus and Tester and Congressman Rehberg about putting exhibits on Montana heritage in their offices. As we are fundraising, we will look at all levels of government opportunity to assist with our new facility. Richard will also call on the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities and on the American Association of Museums.

Legislative Issues

Kent Kleinkopf introduced Senator Dave Wanzenreid from Missoula to the Board. Senator Wanzenreid is a true supporter of everything the Society stands for and aspires to be in the future. We owe him a great debt of gratitude for his efforts, not only in the legislature but in this community and in Missoula.

Senator Wanzenreid is on the Appropriations Subcommittee that looks at the budget for the Historical Society. The Appropriations Subcommittee went through the budget and acknowledged that small agencies like the Historical Society had been hurt disproportionately by cuts made in 2001, and especially by cuts made in 2003. Senator Wanzenreid met with Richard Sims and asked him for a wish list if the Society were to have some money -- \$200,000. The Subcommittee was able to do this without any rancor, without any debate, and with a unanimous vote to transfer the funds from one entity (Department of Revenue) to another. A unanimous vote on transferring money from one place to another never happens. This speaks volumes about the work that the Society is doing and the very deliberate pace the Board is taking to develop a concept about a place to do the work of the Historical Society instead of rushing in and buying and building somewhere. Senator Wanzenreid has been watching the Society very closely since the 2001 Legislature as to the work it has been doing and how the Society has been hamstrung.

If Montana is in fact 49th in historic preservation support, let's start talking about moving up and becoming higher than that. Senator Wanzenreid wants to help to do that. We should start right now -- not in the 2009 session in January, but right now.

Senator Wanzenreid thanked the Board for making his job a lot easier and encouraged the Board and the Society to take credit for every display it has, everything it does to keep the mansions up, thank the legislature for making the funds available, and the Society will have a lot more support next session to do better than it did this time.

PRESENTATION BY CTA ARCHITECTS

Richard Sims welcomed Keith Rupert from CTA Architects in Billings and Skip Stanaway from SRG Architects in Portland. Richard will escort the architects to meet with David Ewer, the Budget Director after the presentation. Richard also introduced Tom O'Connell and Joe Triem from the Architecture and Engineering Division. The Montana Historical Society staff was invited to this part of the meeting to hear the presentation and ask questions of the architects.

The team consists of CTA, SRG and Main Street Design. The architects presented a shortened version of their credentials that were given during the interview process to the selection committee. There are three key phases of the project:

- Collecting the site and programming information. The architects will be working with Richard Sims, Joe Triem and all of the Society to determine all of the needs, not only for the Heritage Center, but also for the overall Capitol Campus.
- Site evaluation and programming information. The architects will meet with all of the programs to develop some initial graph programming. At the same time they will be looking at site analysis to analyze all of the sites available for the Heritage Center with the master plan.
- Develop the concepts. Once the initial space planning is determined, the site analysis is determined, conceptual design work will be developed.

The idea is to kick the project off in June with completion in October. The goal is that people feel a part of the process and that they have been asked to contribute and feel listened to. This will create synergy, consensus, interest, and overall success. From that point there is opportunity to acquire additional funds to make that vision a reality.

There are two separate projects that are interrelated. One is the master planning, programming and conceptual design for the Montana Heritage Center. Parallel to that is the Capitol Campus planning. The obvious interrelationship is the important position that the Heritage Center captures on the campus. These studies have to be carried on simultaneously and both parts of the study have to receive their due attention.

There are five major sites under consideration. A&E has asked the architects to narrow the sites down to the three best choices. From that will come a recommendation and a decision on the best site for the museum. Cost estimates will be developed.

The floor was opened for questions from staff, Board members and the public.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

July Board Meeting Venue

Sharon Lincoln informed the Board that July 20 is inconvenient for the Board meeting because of State fiscal year end deadlines on the Society. Richard suggested the board meeting be held on July 27 in Bozeman. We will have a wine and cheese reception the night before the Board meeting. If it turns out that we are needed in Helena because of what is going on with the architects, we will change the meeting back to Helena. (President Lincoln called the Director in late May and reported that this change would cause too many conflicts for Board members. The meeting will be held on July 20 as originally scheduled.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards Committee

Shirley Groff reported that the Trustees' and Educator's awards are being advertised everywhere possible that is free. We will also consider nominations from last year. The cut-off date for nominations is May 15. The Trustees' award is our highest, most prestigious award. We want to keep the awards to one winner each so that the prestige of the awards is not diluted. The Committee discussed ways to make the awards more desirable. We can give plaques, a one-year MHS membership to the winners, and we are open to any ideas the Board can come up with. We need more nominations and a bigger pool to select from. The criteria for nominating people for the awards is on the website and in the procedures manual. Sharon Lincoln encouraged Board members to nominate people for awards. Gena Ashmore will e-mail the information to the Board. Gena asked the Board to provide contact information for any newsletters the Board members are associated with that might allow us to advertise for the awards at no charge.

Nomination Committee

Traditionally, the officers serve two years on the Board of Trustees. Bill Holt recommended renomination of Sharon Lincoln as President, Jim Murry as Vice President, Jim Utterback as Secretary, and committee members Tom Foor, Shirley Groff and Lee Rostad. He called for other nominations from the floor. **Kent moved to extend the term of these officers for one more year, Crystal Shors seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

Heritage Center Negotiations Committee

Lee Rostad reported that the History Center Negotiations Committee would like to change its name to the Heritage Center Oversight Committee. "Heritage Center" is a working title. This committee would be the contact people to work through problems as they arise. President Lincoln intends for the full Board to stay completely advised of what is happening, whether it be by e-mail or phone calls. The full Board needs to be in on the process, but the Oversight Committee will handle decisions that need to be made quickly. The committee will consist of Jim Murry, Jim Utterback, Lee Rostad and Crystal Shors because they are local. Other people can be added as necessary.

Marketing Committee

Cyrstal Shors reported that the Marketing Committee is beginning to take shape and become organized. Kris Ellis, the contract marketing person, is working on a marketing plan for the Society as a whole. She is working on a branding umbrella that will bring all of the components together and make the best use of what little promotions money we have. Membership has been tied in with marketing, which will make us stronger and more unified. Gena Ashmore asked Sharon Lincoln if the two Board committees (marketing and membership) could be made into one, and Sharon approved that change.

Vanessa Verrill showed the Board the proof of the new full-color membership calendar based on quilts from the Society collection and the Montana historic quilt project. Publications is putting out a Quilts of Montana book in spring 2008. Gena Ashmore added that if anyone wants additional quilt cards to help promote the calendar and membership, please let us know.

Executive Committee

Sharon Lincoln informed the Board that Marcella Sherfy-Walter has decided to designate memorial donations for Dave Walter to our history textbook project.

We have 26 maquettes and 242 medallions left to sell. We are a little over \$81,000 in debt. Sharon encouraged the Board to help sell maquettes to people they know. Denise King challenged the Board to sell two maquettes each. Tom Cook added that if Board members know of people who might be interested, Gena and Tom can travel to their area to make a presentation.

The Executive Committee had a request from Richard Sims for additional moving expense money. Richard had estimated his moving expenses at \$3,000. The moving expenses were \$890 more than anticipated. The Executive Committee has approved that amount.

The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and Traveler's Rest are interested in partnering with us to do some advertising to get people to continue to purchase Lewis and Clark license plates.

Lee Rostad said that Senator Dave Lewis has been helping us in the legislature. Denise King added that when Senator Wanzenreid put his motion on the floor for \$200,000 for the Society, Senator Lewis spoke very eloquently in support of the bill. Sharon suggested that the Board members send thank you notes to the legislators that helped us.

Shirley asked about the Russell painting that was supposed to be loaned. She questioned the policy of loaning Russells. Bill Holt said we made an exception, it was voted on and passed at the last meeting because of the public relations of this particular loan. Richard Sims will hand deliver the painting to the National Wildlife Museum in Jackson, Wyoming. Susan Near said the policy does allow for Russells to be loaned. We are hesitant with Russells, but they can be loaned.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kate Hampton suggested that when the Board meets in Bozeman, it use one of the historic mansions in the area, such as the Story Mansion, for its wine and cheese reception.

Marge Jacobson thanked the Board members that came to the Volunteer luncheon. The Friends trip this year is going to the Great Falls and Fort Benton museums.

Molly Holz told Board members to contact Tammy Ryan when they attend events, and Tammy can give them back issues of the magazine to give away for free.

ADJOURN

Jim Murry moved to adjourn the meeting, Shirley Groff seconded, all voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.